

REMARKS

Applicant has replaced the abstract and amended the claims to eliminate improper multiple dependency and to improve the claim language. The Examiner should note that a "diaphysis" is defined as being a spinous projection. No new matter has been added, nor has the claim scope been narrowed by these amendments.

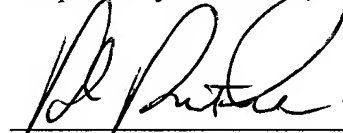
Early action allowing claims 1-11 is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 246472008200.

Dated: July 5, 2005

By:

Respectfully submitted,



Barry E. Bretschneider
Registration No. 28,055

Morrison & Foerster LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 760-7743
Facsimile: (703) 760-7777